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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

CO No.	<u>3257</u>	Press
		<u>Mr.</u>
Dated	<u>1-10-62</u>	<u>18/6/62</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st February 1864.*

No. 17. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Passing orders on the papers relative to the destruction of } (Here enter 26th January 1864, No. 302.)
the Brickly Pear by insects.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 1st February 1864, No. 335.
Communicated to the Superintending Engineers.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.

Read the following:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd December 1863, No. 8094.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Zamaladamagu, 9th December 1863, No. 176; to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

It is with pleasure that I have the honor to communicate to the Board the discovery of an insect that eats away Prickly Pear.

2. I say an insect, because that sent by Major Mainwaring requires a farinaceous congee to make it eat, whereas this eats it away root and branch without any thing of the sort.

3. Should the Board deem it expedient, I will send a cooly load to Madras, on my return to Cuddapah about the 5th proximo.

4. I shall report further on the subject in a few days.

1. Communicated to the Collectors of Bellary, Kurnool, Kistna, Nellore and North Arcot Districts.

2. The Acting Collector will be good enough to send a specimen of the insect to Captain Mitchell, the Curator of the Government Museum, that it may be determined whether it is a new variety.

ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1864, No. 41.

The Board will instruct the Acting Collector to send a sufficient number of the insects to admit of the experiment being tried at Madras.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

From the Deputy Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 14th January 1864, No. 393; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

With reference to the 3rd paragraph of this Office letter, No. ⁷³/₆₂₅₉, dated 31st July 1863, I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to bring to the notice of Government, that the Officer Commanding

No. 460, dated 23rd December 1863. the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force has reported as follows, regarding the progress of the des-

truction of the Prickly Pear at Secunderabad.

"I. The experiment with the Prickly Pear insect has been entirely successful."

"II. In every direction, with a trifling exception, the insect has taken, and the Prickly Pear is being rapidly destroyed."

"III. The exception alluded to in paragraph 2, is a species of Prickly Pear slightly differing from the common Prickly Pear, the leaf being longer and quite free from thorns."

"IV. There are evidences however of the insect attacking this kind also."

"V. Should this take place, I anticipate the entire destruction of all the Prickly Pear within the Cantonment limits by the end of next year."

2. The insect was also sent from Secunderabad to Cuddapah, with a view to its introduction there, shortly after its arrival, it was brought to the notice of the Commanding Officer that a similar insect had been discovered in the Cuddapah District. The Acting Collector had tried it successfully for the destruction of the Prickly Pear at one of the Towns where he was on circuit.

3. In the Cantonment of Cuddapah, the insect received from Secunderabad had altogether failed. The insect discovered in the District was then tried, but up to the date of report had made no perceptible progress.

4. Baskets of Prickly Pear leaves with the insects on them were, under His Excellency's orders, sent to Masulipatam, Waltair, and also to Madras, whence they have been distributed to Trichinopoly, Poonamallee and Palaveram—a basket was also sent to the Officer Commanding the 44th Regiment Native Infantry at Perambore.

5. No Report has been as yet received from Masulipatam, Waltair or Trichinopoly.

6. Both at Poonamallee and Palaveram the insect has not spread itself to any extent. It has been applied longer at Poonamallee than at Palaveram, and has therefore shewn greater signs of progress.

7. At Perambore, the Officer Commanding reports that the "insect has spread in some places over the Prickly Pear to the extent of half a yard, but in others not at all. As yet no parts of the bushes have been destroyed, nor are there any signs of their falling to the ground."

8. In his letter to the Collector of Belgaum, Rustomjee Vicoajee, stated that, after the insects had been placed on the tree for about

Printed with Proceedings of Government, No. 3857 8th November 1862. fourteen days, the nests would be observed to have spread rapidly over all the trees adjoining, and that in about another fourteen days, the

branches would begin to fall to the ground.

9. These statements have not been corroborated by the result of the experiment at Secunderabad, or at any other Stations in this Presidency, where the insect has been applied, and it is as well that too rapid a success should not be looked for, otherwise the result must be disappointment.

10. At Secunderabad, where the insect was introduced twelve months ago, it did not seem to take any effect for about two months, it then only began to spread, and the destruction of the plant is still going on.

11. The extirpation of the Prickly Pear plant throughout the Presidency is a matter of so much importance, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief would suggest for the consideration of Government, the advisability of publishing in the Fort Saint George Gazette, the Proceedings of Government of the 8th November 1862, with which was printed the interesting letter from Rustomjee Vicoajee, first bringing the existence of the insect, and its properties, under the notice of the authorities, Proceedings of Government, No. 2571 of the 11th August last, and those passing orders on this letter.

ORDER, No. 302, 26th January 1864.

The Governor in Council observes, with reference to paragraph 11 of the foregoing letter, that the Proceedings of Government, No. 3857 of the 8th November 1862, were laid on the Editor's table. The same course will be observed with the present communication.

2. The experiments should be continued,—also with the insect referred to in the Proceedings in the Revenue Department above recorded.

(True Extract.)

M. Gordon
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

„ Quarter Master General.

„ Public Works Department.

W. H. 20 June 1864

Exd. J. E. Oshart.

Feb 15th 1864
Office of George G. Brown
July 17

1/200 of 1st in the
Miss. Charters

Dated 26th Aug
Received 20th Aug

210202

Refers order on the
papers relative to the an-
ticipation of the British
war by mistake.

210202-1st of February

with an order

Feb

to the Capt. of Engineers
1st of Feb 1864

Communicated to the
acting Engineers.

210202

W.H.

110

1st of February

210202-1st of February